IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously amended) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 7, wherein between each two mutually-adjacent ones of said plural groove-free separator plates disposed between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other, a thin member is interposed.

4. (Previously amended) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 7, wherein each two mutually-adjacent ones of said plural groove-free separator plates disposed between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other have been coated at mutually-opposing surfaces thereof.

5. (Previously amended) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 7, wherein each two mutually-adjacent ones of said plural groove-free separator plates disposed between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other have been machined at mutually-opposing surfaces thereof.

6. (Previously amended) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 7, wherein said groove-free separator plates have a thickness of from 0.5 to 1.52 mm per plate.

7. (Currently amended) A wet multiplate clutch comprising plural friction plates and plural separator plates that are alternately arranged with the plural friction plates, wherein said separator plates are groove-free separator plates, ~~and~~ wherein between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other, at least two of the plural groove-free separator plates are disposed separably from each other, and wherein the at least two separator plates are free to move independently of each other.

8. (New) A wet multiplate clutch comprising plural friction plates and plural separator plates that are alternately arranged with the plural friction

plates, wherein said separator plates are groove-free separator plates, wherein between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other, at least two of the plural groove-free separator plates are disposed separably from each other, wherein the at least two separator plates are connected with each other with a thin member disposed between the at least two separator plates, and wherein the thin member is sufficiently resilient to allow for vibration damping and impact absorption.

9. (New) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 8, wherein each two mutually-adjacent ones of said plural groove-free separator plates disposed between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other have been coated at mutually-opposing surfaces thereof.

10. (New) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 8, wherein each two mutually-adjacent ones of said plural groove-free separator plates disposed between each two friction plates arranged adjacent to each other have been machined at mutually-opposing surfaces thereof.

11. (New) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 8, wherein said groove-free separator plates have a thickness of from 0.5 to 1.52 mm per plate.

12. (New) A wet multiplate clutch according to claim 8, wherein the thin member comprises one or more of TEFLON®, polyimide, aramid, fluorinated resin, thermosetting resin, polyoxymethylene, fiber-reinforced, super engineering plastic, polyethylene sulfide, polyetherimide, polyetherketone, polyethersulfon, carbon fibers, silica fibers, and silica paper.